

Message Text

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51

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 /124 R

DRAFTED BY EA/LC;BPORTER:DJB 5/10/74 X22003

APPROVED BY EA/MSTEARNES

EA/LC:LMRIVES

EA/LC:SBTHOMSEN

OSD/ISA:LTC MACDONALD

EA/TB:TBTHOMSETH

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P 101613Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACAF

USSAG NKP

CDR 13TH AVDON UDORN

DEPCHJUSMAG THAI UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097090

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS LA

SUBJECT:EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (EOD) TEAMS

IN LAOS

REF; A. VIENTIANE 3338; B. STATE 086965

1. WE CONCUR IN YOUR PROPOSAL TO PRESENT NOTE (ALONG LINES
REF A) INFORMING THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF OUR INTENTION
TO WITHDRAW MILITARY EOD TEAMS FROM LAOS PRIOR JUNE 4, 1974,
BUT OFFERING CONTINUED US EOD ASSISTANCE BEYOND THAT DATE
IF REQUESTED BY PGNU, SUBJECT TO FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

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-- EACH OPERATION WILL BE FULLY COORDINATED AND APPROVED BY BOTH THE VIENTIANE AND LPF SIDES OF THE PGNU BEFORE IMPLEMENTING, AND,

-- JOINT LAO ESCORTS WILL BE PROVIDED BY PGNU ON ALL OPERATIONS.

2. DIPLOMATIC NOTE SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--THE US EOD MISSION WILL BE ORIENTED TOWARD THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF A LAO CAPABILITY TO ASSUME EOD FUNCTIONS. ON-THE-JOB TRAINING WILL BE EMPHASIZED.

--EOD SUPPORT, IF ACCEPTED, WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE

AT THE CURRENT LEVEL FOR ONLY SIX (6) MONTHS COMMENCING JUNE 4, 1974 WITH THE INDIGENOUS CAPABILITY SUFFICIENTLY

DEVELOPED DURING THAT PERIOD TO ASSUME THE MISSION. FYI; THE PRIMARY MISSION OF USAF EOD PERSONNEL IN THAILAND REMAINS THE SUPPORT OF USAF FORCES. THESE EOD RESOURCES IN THAILAND WILL NOT BE INCREASED NOR RETAINED BEYOND PROGRAMMED REDEPLOYMENT DATES SOLELY TO SUPPORT LAOS EOD REQUIREMENTS. USAF EOD UNITS (CURRENTLY AT 82 PERCENT STRENGTH) ARE NOT AUTHORIZED MANNING TO SUPPORT LAOS EOD ACTIVITIES AND TO DATE HAVE PROVIDED THIS SUPPORT IN ADDITION TO PERFORMING THEIR PRIMARY MISSION END FYI.

3. WE SHARE YOUR VIEWS THAT THIS IS ONE ACTIVITY WHICH IS OF GENERAL BENEFIT AND SHOULD GO ON RECORD WITH OUR INTENTION TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL AS WELL AS TO OFFER THIS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPLOSIVES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC NOTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE097090
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DJB 5/10/74 X22003
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740114-1019
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740557/aaaabyik.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: XPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (EOD) TEAMS IN LAOS
TAGS: MARR, MASS, LA
To: VIENTIANE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005